



NEWS RELEASE

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BLM seeks comment on project to improve threatened plant species numbers

MEEKER, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management seeks public comment beginning Tuesday on a joint project with Colorado State University designed to help two threatened plant species.

The purpose of the project is to examine the feasibility of transplanting and seeding Dudley Bluffs twinpod and bladderpod. Both species are listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act and found exclusively in isolated plant communities in Rio Blanco County.

“This research has the possibility of providing increased mitigation efforts that may eventually lead to the delisting of the two plant species,” said Kent Walter BLM White River field manager. According to Walter, the feasibility of transplanting and seeding will assist the BLM in plant recovery options so ESA protections are no longer needed.

Seeding by hand is scheduled to begin in the fall with transplanting to take place in spring 2014. Transplants will come from plants grown from seed in a greenhouse. The project area is approximately 27 miles southeast of Rangely in the northern part of the Piceance Basin.

The EA and maps showing the location of the project will be available on the BLM White River Field Office website at: <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/wrfo.html>

The public will have 15 days to comment on the Environmental Assessment regarding this project. Public comments regarding this project will be most helpful to the BLM if received by Aug. 6, 2013. Written comments can be mailed to the White River Field Office, 220 E. Market Street, Meeker, CO 81641. Comments can also be submitted via email to bfoster@blm.gov. General questions can be directed to Baili Foster at (970) 878-3836.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or any other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While individuals may request BLM to withhold personal identifying information from public view, the BLM cannot guarantee it will be able to do so.

Members of the media contact BLM Public Affairs Specialist, Chris Joyner at (970) 210-2126.

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